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The Gymnosporangia or Cedar-Apples of the United States, by W. G. Farlow. —The pamphlet bearing this title consists of thirty eight quarto pages of letter press and two plates, the latter illustrating five United States species of *Gymnosporangium*. It is published by the Boston Society of Natural History in their Anniversary Memoirs and is dated, Boston; 1880.

After giving a brief notice of the different forms of development or alternate generations ascribed to some species of *Puccinia*, and referring to the fact that CErsted connected the European species of *Ræstelia* with those of *Gymnosporangium* as æcidial forms, the author enters upon the principal or descriptive part of the essay in which he collates and remodels the descriptions (with one exception) of our previously known species of *Gymnosporangium* and *Ræstelia*. With the descriptions are given the American and some of the European synonymy and bibliographical references. Also the principal known localities are recorded, and the references to the authority therefor made. Each description is followed by remarks concerning the habits, appearance, relations and distinctive features of that species. This part of the monograph abounds in the results of the authors observations and investigations and will be interesting not only to the mycological student but also to every lover of botanical science.

Podisoma and *Hamaspora* are not accepted as valid genera, the species sometimes referred to them being all included in *Gymnosporangium*. Of this genus, thus understood, seven species and one variety are described; the form producing globose swellings, on cedar twigs, similiar to those caused by *G. macropus*, being separated from *Podisoma fuscum*, to which it was formerly referred, and described under the name *Gymnosporangium fuscum*, var. *globosum*, Farlow. The familiar names *Gymnosporangium Juniperi*, Lk. and *G. juniperinum*, Fr. are made synonyms of *G. conicum*, DC., although the author expresses some doubt concerning the presence of this species in the United States.

Gymnosporangium speciosum, Pk. which occurs in the western mountain region on *Juniperus occidentalis*, and is described in the BOTANICAL GAZETTE, Vol. IV., p. 217, is omitted, probably through some oversight.

Eight species of *Ræstelia* are described, but here again a doubt is indicated concerning the validity of *R. penicillata*, and a possibility of some error suggested concerning *R. hyalina*. How difficult it is to be fully satisfied in regard to the true characters and limits of species in these fungi may be inferred from the author's remarks under *G. clavipes*, *G. conicum*, and *G. fuscum*, var. *globosum*, as well as from the statement made that "European writers have not agreed among themselves as to the limits of their species." *R. Ellisii*, Pk. is placed as a synonym under *R. botryapites*, Schw., although it is difficult to make it agree with Schweinitz's description of that species. In order to reach the conclusion that the two are the same we must either suppose that the original description of *R. botryapites* is erroneous, or that Schweinitz mistook the gall-like swellings of the leaf for peridia and described them as such. Neither supposition would be very complimentary to the accuracy of Schweinitz; but it may be said, that if we admit the last one to be correct, the characters of *R. Ellisii* will agree passably well with the description of *R. botryapites*.

In the closing pages an account is given of some experimental cultures undertaken with the design of tracing, if possible, the connection between the species of *Gymnosporangium* and *Rastelia*. Concerning the results of the experiments the author says, "Whether we consider the distribution of our species or the results of the cultures made, there is nothing to confirm the views of CErsted as to the connection of particular species." In another place he also says, in reference to this subject, "Much more work remains to be done in this country, * * more extended and accurate knowledge of the distribution of our species is to be desired, and many more cultures must be made." "If it should be shown that several of our *Rastelia* are perennial, a fact true with regard to most of our *Gymnosporangia*, and to grow in regions remote from species of *Juniperus* and *Cupressus*, then one could not help feeling that any connection between the two genera was probably accidental rather than genetic."

It is to be hoped that Prof. Farlow will continue this investigation until the number, identity and distribution of our species shall be satisfactorily ascertained and the supposed connection between the *Gymnosporangia* and *Rastelia* shall be shown to be either real or imaginary.
—CHAS. H. PECK.

Maryland Fungi. II.—On the first of August I fled from the tropical heat of Baltimore, but I confess that my flight had more than fresh air for its object. A ramble among the hills and the mountains of Maryland, offered as inducements a more extensive field for collecting, and a further knowledge of the geographical distribution of fungi. In the northwestern counties of this state, I found matters pretty much in the same condition as in Baltimore county. A very intelligent countryman with whom I conversed told me that he had rarely known such a poor season in the way of fungi. Only a few plants were to be met with even in the most favorable localities. But this state of things was not to last long. The third week in August brought a profusion and for three weeks the cryptogamic flora of Maryland was resplendent with beauty. Every lawn, flower garden and woods contributed its full share and the most avaricious collector could feel that his lot had fallen upon fair ground. Wherever I journeyed, "frog stools," so-called, seemed to become quite the fashion; though in some sections it was impossible not to perceive that I was considered "just a little Quixotic," as I heard some one say in a sly way. But for all this I received daily contributions from kind friends who were as might be expected forgetful of classification, and sent pilei without stipes and stipes minus the base. In this way I lost several beautiful Agarics that were new to me and which I never again met with.

At one stopping place I met with three very bright little boys. When I asked them if they knew anything about "frog stools" they replied: "Oh, yes, they knew all about them." I engaged them to come to the hotel the next morning and conduct me to, as they called it, "a grand place for frog-stools." I suppose they wished to assure me of their truthfulness as well as to earn a little money, for they went out early next morning, collected a quantity of fungi, and presented themselves at the door of the hotel saying: "We want to see that frog-stool lady that stays here." Luckily I was in the hall when I heard